



A Study In The Book Of James

James 3: 13-18

Sermon Based Study Guide

Main Point:

"Wisdom is the ability to perceive and discern things from God's perspective and apply His truth to our lives." - Pastor Mike Wiggins

Discuss It:

1. Read: James 3:13-18

- Who is God speaking to and what is happening in this passage?
- What's one thing that stands out to you from this passage?
- Does this passage raise any questions for you?
- Where or How do you see Jesus Christ in these verses? (or How do they glorify Him?)
- How might this passage apply to us today?

2. Dive Deeper: James 3:13-18

- According to verses 13-14, what are the signs of someone who is "wise and understanding"? What are the signs of someone who is not? Where do you fall on this spectrum?
 - Verses 14-16 show the Characteristics and outcome of earthly wisdom. Where does this wisdom ultimately come from? What is the outcome of living your life according to earthly wisdom? Do you see any of these outcomes in your life today? If so, how must you repent of living by earthly wisdom?
 - Verse 17-18 show the Characteristics and outcome godly wisdom. What is the outcome of living your life according to godly wisdom? Do you see any of these outcomes in your life today? If not, what can you do about it?
 - How do verses 13 and 18 connect? What picture do they paint of how a believer should live each day? How do they apply to believers engaging the circumstances our society is facing today?
-

Apply It:

What action is the Spirit leading you to personally take through this study? (*Make it specific enough that you can do it this week.*) The following questions will guide you through discovering this:

- What did I learn from this passage?
- How does this passage impact what I believe?
- How will this passage change my daily actions? What's one thing I can do?
- What is something you can share with someone else as a result of this passage? (*It could be another believer or a not-yet believer*)

Memory Verse: *"17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere." - James 3:17 (ESV)*

Pray About It:

Pray For: God to give you wisdom from above and the capacity to walk it out in every area of life and choice you must make.

Answer Guide:

2. Dive Deeper: James 3:13-18

- According to verses 13-14, what are the signs of someone who is “wise and understanding”? What are the signs of someone who is not? Where do you fall on this spectrum?
 - Good conduct and good works done in meekness
 - Bitter jealousy, selfish ambition, boasting and falsehood
 - Maybe have group members consider this internally and only share out loud if they feel led to.
- Verses 14-16 show the Characteristics and outcome of earthly wisdom. Where does this wisdom ultimately come from? What is the outcome of living your life according to earthly wisdom? Do you see any of these outcomes in your life today? If so, how must you repent of living by earthly wisdom?
 - It is ultimately demonic in origin.
 - Jealousy and selfish ambition. Discuss other behaviors that could be associated with this type of wisdom?
 - Maybe have group members consider this internally and only share out loud if they feel led to.
- Verse 17-18 show the Characteristics and outcome of godly wisdom. What is the outcome of living your life according to godly wisdom? Do you see any of these outcomes in your life today? If not, what can you do about it?
 - A harvest of righteousness and peace. Discuss other behaviors that could be associated with this type of wisdom?
 - Maybe have group members consider this internally and only share out loud if they feel led to.
- How do verses 13 and 18 connect? What picture do they paint of how a believer should live each day? How do they apply to believers engaging the circumstances our society is facing today?
 - They both describe characteristics of a godly person.
 - A believer should be wise and understanding, living with good conduct, doing good works, producing a harvest of righteousness and peace everywhere they go.
 - Discuss how we can live out these verses in the midst of volatile issues our society is facing currently. Discuss how these verses should guide our behavior in such polarizing times.